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## President Duarte's prescient words

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**I**n a conversation in his office in San Salvador recently, the canny president of El Salvador, Jose Napoleon Duarte, mused over how singularly difficult it is for democracies and democrats to fight for democracy and against communism.

"In every country, there is a sort of 'big computer' that organizes the society," he said. "But in Russia, there is a computer that connects with other small computers in countries all over the world and converges in a powerful machine.

"This is just what the democracies do not have. Every one is independent and tries to protect itself, and there is no relation to the rest. That is why it is so much easier for the Communists."

Referring to Eden "Commander Zero" Pastora, the great Nicaraguan revolutionary leader who broke with the Sandinistas over their Marxism, Mr. Duarte recalled thoughtfully: "Eden Pastora saw this. He told me he never thought it would be so difficult to fight for democracy against leftist fascism, compared with how easy it was to fight against a dictator of the right.

"Why? Because those who want to fight against the right can count on the whole machinery of the left. On the contrary, those fighting against them have no network of intercommunication."

Mr. Duarte's prescient words seemed to speak directly to the apparent bewilderment among many as to whether Marxist Nicaragua is "exporting revolution," and if so, how or why.

What surprises the analytical visitor to the region is that virtually no one here — on any side — questions whether the Sandinistas are aiding the other Marxist guerrilla movements in the isthmus. Indeed, they know it would be most odd were

they not.

A few pieces of "proof:"

- Rebel documents captured in El Salvador by the Salvadoran military April 18 detailed with fascinating new insights and depth the aid given directly by the Sandinistas to the Salvadoran guerrillas, as well as noting that military training classes for the Salvadorans have been held in Vietnam, Bulgaria, East Germany, and the Soviet Union.

- Scores of left-wing guerrillas, many of whom are wanted in their home countries on terrorism charges, have found a home in revolutionary Nicaragua, and many secretly have been given a protec-

tive Nicaraguan citizenship.

These include M-19 guerrillas from Colombia (who have a central command post here), Argentine Montoneros, Italian Red Brigades, Spanish Basque ETA, and many others. They come to Nicaragua under the auspices of the Sandinista Front's Directorate for International Relations.

One interesting development: The papers of the "Danish photographer" believed to have set the deadly bomb at Eden Pastora's guerrilla camp in Costa Rica last year have been found. A man under the same

name was at least listed as having worked for more than a year at the Nicaraguan Ministry of Construction.

These kinds of "proofs" go on indefinitely. Yet, I have to think that no amount of them would convince

members of Congress, so many of whom still want to believe that this is a kind of social democrat regime gone a little sour.

What is more disturbing about our "now" generation's instant analysis — with no thought of history or process — is that it does not even do groups such as the Sandinistas the compliment of learning a little about their historical formation and about their often wholly understandable inner motivation.

The classic book on the Sandinistas, *FSLN, The Ideologies of the Sandinistas and the Nicaraguan Revolution*, by respected American scholar David Nolan, is must reading for anyone serious about understanding this movement. In a brilliant analysis of their mind-set, for instance, Mr. Nolan writes:

"What the young activists found in Marxism was a comprehensive socioeconomic theory that explained to their satisfaction the reasons for the poverty and political bankruptcy while providing the confident prediction of a better world to come."

Are the Sandinistas, then, a "threat" to their neighbors — and, indirectly and eventually, to the United States, which they wanted to pit themselves against?

Yes, if you consider supporting and training all the other guerrilla movements a threat, having as their end the overthrowing of other governments in the isthmus and establishing a variant on the old Central American idea of unity — in effect a Marxist United States of Central America.

But, that is also their right, so long as they're willing to admit it and to accept the consequences.

Infinitely more strange and disturbing to me is how and why so many Americans want and need, according to their own inner compulsions, to deny the reality here, which is so obvious and really so very easy to understand.